

## Floor Discussion

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Michel Jacod of France's National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies reported that France's next census would be in 1999. The challenge is to produce data for France's 36,500 communes through greater use of administrative records and rotating samples that continue for varying periods of time, depending on size of cities and towns. Some new opportunities include greater use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and use of multiple administrative records.

Linda Street of the U.K. Office of Population Censuses and Surveys reported that the 2001 census would be preceded by a test of questions in 1997 and a dress rehearsal in 1999. The overall plan focused on research to identify needs of users, process reengineering, use of new geographical procedures, and issues of outsourcing of some operations. New enumeration procedures entailed delivering and picking up or asking respondents to mail questionnaires back. Advisory panels have been set up.

In a floor discussion Mr. Jacod was asked if a weighting scheme had been devised to take into account the strategy of having different samples for places of different size and extending over varying periods of time. Mr. Jacod replied that considerable work remained to be done but that he would be interested in further communication of this difficult matter.

Dhiran Ghosh asked if the budget for the U.K. census of 2001 would be equal (in real terms) to the total budget for the 1991 census. Ms. Street replied that the budget was an issue and ultimately would determine the course of some operations.

Pamela White of Statistics Canada asked Ms. Street about membership in the various advisory groups. Ms. Street replied that local authorities have representatives that participate in governmental functions, that contacts in academia have been built up over the years, and that the Market Research Society has been helpful in communicating business interests.

Ram Chakrabarty of the U.S. Bureau of the Census asked Ms. Street how race and/or ethnicity were treated. She replied that a single question was introduced in 1991 and that it has been adopted by some other organizations.